

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: AERIAL SURVEY FOR PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 086670

1. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIPT OF SHELDON'S DRAFT REPORT. WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING PNCB TO EXPEDITE RELEASE OF MAPS BUT ARE INFORMED THAT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE APPROVAL IS SNAG AT MOMENT. WE FORWARDED DIPLOMATIC NOTE URGING PROMPT RELEASE OF MAPS SHORTLY AFTER SHELDON VISIT AND HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING UP WITH MFA.

2. TEN-MILE STRIP. ALTHOUGH EXCLUSION OF TEN-MILE STRIP ALONG AFGHAN BORDER WOULD LEAVE TIRAH AREA OF KHYBER AGENCY, REPORTEDLY MOST INTENSIVE AREA OF TRIBAL AGENCY POPPY CULTIVATION, WITHIN RANGE OF CAMERAS, SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS OF CULTIVATION WOULD BE ELIMINATED: MOHMAND AGENCY, KURRAM AGENCY, AND NORTH AND SOUTH WAZIRISTAN. EXCLUSION OF TEN-MILE STRIP WOULD ALSO EXCLUDE PHOTOGRAPHY OF PART OF NORTHERN DIR AND LOWER CHITRAL AREAS IN MALAKAND DIVISION WHERE PRODUCTION IS LIKELY. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF AERIAL SURVEY TO OBTAIN WAIVER OF TEN-MILE LIMITATION, IF POSSIBLE.

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3. UN AERIAL SURVEY. PNCB AND UNDP REPORT THAT UN-FINANCED AERIAL SURVEY OF BUNEER SUBDIVISION WAS CARRIED OUT BY PAKISTAN AIR FORCE IN IN COLLABORATION WITH SURVEY OF PAKISTAN IN EARLY APRIL USING BLACK AND WHITE FILM. SOME PHOTOGRAPHY WAS ALSO DONE IN COLOR. ROUGH PROCESSING OF BLACK AND WHITE FILMS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, AND PNCB HOPES FINAL PRINTS WILL BE READY BY THE BEGINNING OF MAY. ALTHOUGH PNCB HAD EXPECTED TO GET COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY PROCESSED IN KARACHI, IT NOW APPEARS THAT FILM USED CANNOT BE PROCESSED IN PAKISTAN. SINCE SURVEY OF PAKISTAN REGULATIONS PROHIBIT SENDING SUCH PHOTOGRAPHY ABROAD, PNCB IS NOW UNDERTAIN HOW TO COMPLETE COLOR PROCESSING. PNCB PRODUCTION DIRECTOR WADUD EXPRESSED HOPE SURVEY WILL ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. QUESTION OF WHETHERIT WILL BE USEFUL INCROP IDENTIFICATION CANNOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL FOREST INSTITUTE SPECIALISTS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY FINAL PRINTS, BUT WADUD IS DOUBTFUL.

4. MATTHIAS, WHO COVERS NARCOTICS ON USAID SIDE HERE, ARRIVES WASHINGTON ON TDY MAY 1 AND HOPES TO MEET WITH STATE, AID AND DEA REPS TO DISCUSS AERIAL SURVEY PROJECT, INCLUDING PAPER LEFT RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON BY USAID ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR AGRICULTURE SUGGESTING POSSIBLE BROADENING OF SURVEY TO COVER OTHER SUBJECTS RELEVANT TO DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION WE HAVE LEARNED THAT UNDP IS FINANCING AERIAL FOREST INVENTORY PROJECT, WHICH WILL INVOLVE AERIAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN NWFP FOREST RESOURCES. UNDP REPS EXPECT THIS PHOTOGRAPHY TO GET UNDERWAY IN OCTOBER. IF POPPY AERIAL SURVEY PROJECT IS BROADENED TO INCLUDE WIDER NATURAL RESOURCES SURVEY, PROJECT SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION UN PLANS FOR FORESTRY RESOURCES SURVEY.
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